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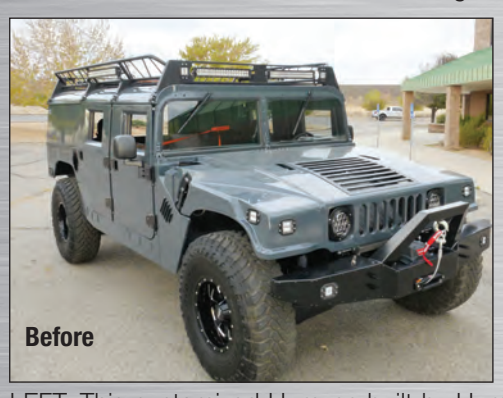
REALITY TV SHOW comes to Prescott

Bobby Raber, left, Jared Aurich, Jesse Aurich and Dale Aurich are stars of a reality television series being filmed in Prescott. The show, "American Metal," is launching in April on the Velocity channel. (Max Efrein/Courier)



LEFT: This customized Humvee built by Humvee Designs is the primary project featured in the first season of American Metal. RIGHT: An old, military Humvee purchased at auction by Humvee Designs. (Max Efrein/Courier)

'American Metal,' customizing Humvees, set to air on April 1

By MAX EFREIN
The Daily Courier

All it takes to make a reality television show these days is an entrepreneurial venture and some personalities with specialized knowledge to make it come alive.

That's, essentially, how the Aurich family — who own and operate Advanced Metal Fabrication & Machine, Inc. in Prescott — and Bobby Raber, a local pediatric dentist, landed a television show contract with the Velocity channel, a subsidiary of Discovery Communications.

Raber had started purchasing old, military Humvees at auction about a year ago and turned to Dale Aurich, the patriarch of the

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Punish doctors who prescribe weed too easily?

Could get a year in prison for not conducting a full medical exam first

By HOWARD FISCHER
For the Courier

PHOENIX — State lawmakers are moving to make felons of doctors who don't follow all the rules when recommending that a patient be allowed to use marijuana.

The 6-3 vote Thursday by the House Health Committee for HB 2067 would impose prison terms of up to a year for medical professionals who fail to conduct a full medical exam before issuing the state certification that is required for patients in Arizona to buy and use the drug legally. That same penalty would also apply to doctors who do not review at least a year of the patient's medical records prior to allowing the patient to use marijuana.

The committee's vote on HB 2067 followed complaints by Yavapai County Attorney Sheila Polk about "pot docs" — doctors who, she said, are in the business of making as much money as possible by providing the certification patients in Arizona need to legally purchase and use marijuana.

Polk has made no secret of her opposition to medical marijuana, which Arizona voters approved in 2010. She has said she wants to make certain that doctors follow the certification process that is already required by state regulations. That process, she told lawmakers, is not always followed. As proof, she cited billboards that advertise that people can get a medical marijuana card in Arizona without having any medical records.

Thursday's vote is the second victory for Polk in her fight against medical marijuana.

Sen. Sonny Borrelli, R-Lake Havasu City, said Polk's lobbying forced him to abandon his effort to slash the $150 annual fee the state Department of Health Services charges to patients who use medical marijuana.

Borrelli had shepherded his bill, SB 1420, through the Senate Gov-

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Yavapai County Attorney Sheila Polk uses the term "pot docs" to describe doctors who she says issue medical marijuana cards carelessly. (Howard Fischer/For the Courier)

Fighting gun violence with random acts of kindness

Sandra Zerner, left, hands chocolate roses to Phoenix residents Cailyn Maney, center, and Dani Shanefelter Thursday, Feb. 15 on the Yavapai County Courthouse plaza, as an act of kindness to counteract the cruelty of a school shooting in Florida. (Sue Tone/Courier)

Prescott woman gives chocolate after latest school shooting

By SUE TONE
The Daily Courier

Just over five years ago, Sandra Zerner found herself wanting to do something to counteract feelings of despair she experienced when she learned of the shooting of 20 schoolchildren in Newtown, Connecticut. So she bought some chocolates and sweets and went down to the local mall in Phoenix to commit random acts of kindness there.

On Thursday morning, Feb. 15 — the day after 17 people were killed in a shooting spree at a school in Florida —Zerner, 57, was once again in a public place, this time the Yavapai County Courthouse plaza, handing out chocolate roses and hearts to passersby.

"This is my way of coping," the she said. "I do this to remind us all there are way more good people in the world."

In between her medical appointment and her volunteer commitment with People Who Care, Zerner, who lives in Prescott, stopped at a grocery store where she spent about $50 on small gifts and candy. For those who didn't want candy, Zerner offered fancy soap or scented candles.

It makes her feel better, she said, including when she hears how her actions impact others.

Dani Shanefelter and Cailyn Maney, visiting Prescott from Phoenix, each accepted a chocolate rose.

"It's a good start to have people learn to be nice to each other," Shanefelter said. "It's OK to show those acts of kindness to each other and not hide it."

Zerner said that when she hears of a tragedy — such as the Feb. 14 shooting at Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida — she cries a little, says a prayer for the victims' families and then goes out to do something to show kindness and compassion.

Ann and Keith Edwards, out walking their two dogs, confirmed that Prescott people are very caring, then asked "What would you like us

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